United Nations A/58/128

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 July 2003
English
Original: English/Spanish

**Fifty-eighth session**
Item 64 of the preliminary list*
**Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification**

# Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

## Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| I. | Introduction | 2 |
| II. | Replies received from Governments | 2 |
| | Bolivia | 2 |
| | Mexico | 2 |

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

03-42585 (E) 250703 290703

# I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 56/15 of 29 November 2001, entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification", requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on further views received from Member States pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 50/61, 52/31 and 54/46.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 28 February 2003, a note verbale was addressed to Member States requesting them to provide their views on the matter. The replies received are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[17 June 2003]

Bolivia reaffirms its support for the role of the United Nations in the field of verification and related matters, and acknowledges the shared responsibility for effective verification of arms limitation and disarmament measures in all their aspects.

It likewise reaffirms its commitment to cooperate with other Member States in achieving the goal of disarmament with a view to contributing to genuine peace and security, eliminating the danger of regional and subregional war, and strengthening economic and intellectual development.

## Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2003]

Mexico believes that verification is first and foremost a process which relies on credibility and transparency. As the United Nations Disarmament Commission stated in 1996, verification is not an aim in itself, but an essential element in the process of achieving arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

Mexico believes that verification which is compatible with the provisions of international instruments currently in force and with the general principles of international law constitutes an effective confidence-building measure that promotes transparency and stimulates international cooperation, thereby facilitating compliance.

Mexico is convinced that the United Nations has an essential role to play in international verification efforts, in particular with regard to the definition of measures and evaluation of their effectiveness, efficiency, representativeness and impartiality.

Mexico supports the general principles relating to verification adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1996, which elaborate upon or add to those stated in 1978 in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Mexico believes that it is particularly important that a balance be struck between the verification requirements contained in international instruments and policies and measures relating to confidentiality which protect new technological, scientific and intellectual property developments. Accordingly, verification should not be excessively intrusive, onerous or bureaucratized; it must be non-discriminatory and implemented by means of legally binding instruments.

Mexico believes that verification must be valued for its positive impact in the areas of credibility, transparency and security. Only credibility and successful international efforts for general and complete disarmament can ensure that this goal is recognized as politically sustainable.